1	2	3	4	5	6
33	Daman and Diu	1	1	0	Jun 02
34	Lakshadweep	3	3	0	Apr 03
35	Pondicherry	19	13	6	Jan 03
	TOTAL	13,204	11,103	2101	

*Judiciary is not completely separated from executive.

Uniform Civil Code

609. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the need for uniform civil code has gained momentum during the past some time; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated the 21st July, 2003 in the matter of John Vallamattom Vs. Union of India had *inter alia* observed on the desirability of enacting a Uniform Civil Code. However, at present, there is no specific proposal for undertaking a legislation in this regard.

Evaluation of Maritime Security Measures

610. SHRI R.S. GAVAI ; Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-evaluated maritime security measures keeping in view the warning by the International Maritime Organisation in the wake of rising terrorist threats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted for inspection of cargo before and after shipment; and

(d) whether these measures are delaying shipment of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following the tragic events of 11th September, 2001, the Internationl Maritime Organization adopted new provisions in the International

Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the International Code for the Security of Ships and Ports Facilities (ISPS Code) to enhance maritime security. The enhanced security measures will be applicable to foreign going merchants ships and port facilities which will become effective from 1st July, 2004. It has been evaluated that about 200 foreign going ships, 12 major ports and about 30 minor ports in the country are required to comply with the provisions of IMO's ISPS Code. The Government has nominated Director General of Shipping as the "Designated Authority" to oversee the implementation of new security regulations.

(c) and (d) The inspection of cargo in ports is done by Customs Department based on their assessment of the need of doing so. Since the time required for the examination is in the knowledge of the shipper, the cargo is generally brought well ahead of shipment and the examination formalities are completed. Therefore, there is no delay in shipment of cargo.

Vallarpadam Transshipment Hub of Cochin

611. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Vallarpadam transshipment hub of Cochin;

(b) how many parties have put in their bid for this project;

(c) by when this project would be completed and what is the cost involved in this project; and

(d) what benefits would accrue to the country from this project in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) The process of selection of the BOT operator commenced in October, 2002 with the invitation of 'Request for Qualification' (RFQ) and based on the Request received, 2 firms (i) M/s, CSX World Terminals, UK and (ii) M/s. Maersk A/S, Denmark were qualified for bidding. The Draft Licence Agreement was issued to these two firms in February 2003 and after detailed discussion and negotiations, the finalised Draft License Agreement was issued to them on 23.7.2003 for submitting the price proposal on 12.9.2003. Even though they had confirmed that they would submit